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EAST TIMOR ALERT NETWORK - CANADA

ETAN/CANADA HAS been incorporated as a non-profit organization with its head office in Ottawa. Initially, directors are Maureen Davies, Ottawa (president), Elaine Brière, Vancouver (secretary-treasurer) and David Webster, Toronto (vice-president).

ON FEBRUARY 24, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas visited Canada to try to convince Canadian External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall to restore $30 million in aid she suspended following the Santa Cruz massacre. To mark the visit, ETAN hosted massacre eyewitness Allan Nairn of the New Yorker, who ably refuted claims by Alatas and McDougall that Indonesia was addressing the problem and punishing the guilty. The External Affairs critics of both major opposition parties, Lloyd Axworthy (Liberal) and Svend Robinson (New Democrat) called for Canada to cut off the remaining $46 million aid programme for Indonesia. ETAN also organized blood-pourings at Indonesian consulates in Vancouver (where Li-lien Gibbons, sister of Kamal Bamadhaj, poured the blood) and Toronto. Joanne Young and Maggie Helwig, charged with mischief for pouring blood in Toronto, still await a verdict in their trial.

Canada has yet to restore the suspended aid, despite statements by McDougall and other officials that it soon would, but did attend the Consultative Group on Indonesia meeting in July. ETAN's Ottawa co-ordinator Peter Monet organized a statement by fifteen Canadian Parliamentarians for East Timor, representing all three major parties, that called on the government to press for a full suspension of Western aid to Indonesia at the C.G.I. meeting.

INTENSIVE LOBBEYING BY East Timor supporters from across the country encouraged CBC-TV to show Cold Blood as a special edition of The Journal, its nightly newsmagazine show. The broadcast marked the first time in 16 years that the CBC has shown a film on East Timor.

TWO TIMORESE REFUGEES, Barnabé Barreto Soares and José Maria de Jesus Luis Guterres, were granted refugee status in Canada thanks to support work by Maureen Davies and Clair Huston. Both were formerly members of RENETIL who came to Canada on exchange programmes in 1991. Abé Barreto Soares has since been appointed CNRM representative to Canada.

GUELPH UNIVERSITY IS conducting a review of its aid programme in Indonesia (at $50 million, the largest aid programme operated by a Canadian university), thanks to persistent efforts by Professor John McMurtry and others. Pressure is also building at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University for a review.

A March 25 day of action at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont. (which has only 4,00 students) organized by the newly-formed Trent East Timor Alert Collective gathered signatures on 750 letters to Indonesian and Canadian government officials. And a forum at the University of Toronto sponsored by ETAN and the Student Christian Movement attracted 75 people to see Cold Blood and hear from Geneviève Appleton, one of four Canadians who participated in the Lusitania Expresso peace ship mission.

ACTIVISTS IN TORONTO and Windsor, Ont., have launched a boycott of Bata Shoes, one of the top Canadian investors in Indonesia. Bata withdrew from South Africa in the 1980s after a national boycott, and we are hoping to put the same pressure on them to divest from Indonesia for human rights reasons.

Agir Pour Timor

General Comment: We have continued our "grass roots" approach, but have augmented it with a more "political" one. In the Portuguese associative network, a solidarity movement has definitely started to develop. Less so on the French NGO side, but there are some encouraging signs. The press remains abysmal, a big handicap for raising consciousness among non-Portuguese.

Activities in chronological order:

1991 Aug--Petition to UN Decolonization Committee

Sept--Participation in a fete near Paris (Les Clayes-sous-Bois): display of photos, documents, etc.

Oct/Nov--Press releases faxed to about 60 media and NGOs regarding Portuguese Parliamentary delegation

Nov--Press conference in collaboration with France Libertes on Nov. 14 with Jose Ramos Horta participating; other interviews, conferences involving Horta/--Participation in an NGO development fete in Dijon (East of France); showing of Chris Wenner film/--Participation in an East Timor solidarity evening of Secours Populaire francais

Dec--Participation in solidarity evening, Um Natal para Timor, of a cultural Portuguese assoication

1992 Jan--General Assembly/--Meeting with Foreign Ministry official/--Meeting with Maria Barroso (Mario Soares' wife)/--Radio Alfa, Radio Libertaire interviews/--Meeting with a Portuguese association to prepare East Timor cultural week

Feb--Participation in solidarity meeting in Geneva

March--Participation in Lisbon convention/--Meeting with Amnesty International/--Meeting with Saskia Kouwenberg and Russell Anderson/--Meeting with Socialist Party official in charge of South-East Asia/--Meeting with a women's group in Goa (India)

April--Week-long East Timor cultural exhibition in Saint-Denis' trade unions building (near Paris)/--Meeting with Federation Anarchiste/--Observer to European Parliament ET hearing (Brussels)

May--Invitations to Pau and Bordeaux/--Photo exhibit in Ivry City Hall (near Paris)

June--Hearing, together with Horta, with Socialist Party/--Fete in Houilles (near Paris)/--Preparation, including meeting with some Indonesians, of demonstrations for CGI meeting

July--Meeting with Foreign Ministry official

Forthcoming: Meeting with head of French delegation to CGI/--Demonstations on July 16 together with European solidarity groups, Timorese, Indonesians/--Campaign against arms sales to Indonesia

Publications: Agir pour Timor Bulletin, nos. 4 & 5/-- Report on European Parliament hearing on East Timor/--Decolonization Comm. submission/--various email conrtibutions

Encouragement/support for other groups' activities: East Timor focus on Radio Alfa, important Portuguese radio in Paris area/--Information dissemination by CCPF (Council of the Portuguese Community in France): press clippings from Portuguese press sent twice monthly to about 100 Portuguese associations/--Fund-raising operation, "Um Natal para Timor", which netted $4,500 to be used by the Cultural Portuguese sponsoring group for solidarity work/--Creation of solidarity collective of about 100 Portuguese groups, which wrote a petition, made a poster, etc./--Solidarity record made and sold/--Inducing involvement by France Libertes, the foundation of Danielle Mitterrand, President Mitterrand's wife

Bruno Kahn

Hobart East Timor Committee

Brief Report on the Year's Activities

--Doug McGregor attended the 1991 UN Decolonization Comm. hearings on our behalf and will be there again this year.
--We nominated Jose Ramos Horta for the Spark M. Matsunaga Award for Peace in the USA (results to be announced July 1, I believe).
--About 350 people supported the advertisement we put in the newspaper on 7th December about East Timor.
--We held a special Memorial Service for East Timor at the Cenotaph on the 17th December for the 50th anniversary of the violation of East Timor's neutrality in WW2 by Australia and Japan and the massive loss of life it caused.
--We have begun putting out a small newsletter at 6-mon. intervals.
--We held the Tasmanian launch for the book by Robert Domm and Mark Aarons (East Timor, A Western Made Tragedy) and the East Timor Relief Association (based in Sydney) on 11 April.
--Though unable to be present at the Nat'l East Timor Conference in Adelaide on June 6-7, the conference took up our suggestion for refuting the Australian Government's position in the current case in the International Court in The Hague.
--Plus the usual letter-writing, speaking, fund-raising, etc.

Jennie Herrera, Secretary

Free East Timor Japan Coalition

The coalition links ten solidarity groups and the Japanese Catholic Justice and Peace Committee.

Coalition projects Sept. 1991-Aug. 1992

September 3 press conference in Tokyo to show video received from the resistance in East Timor. Version with English narration and background material produced for use at United Nations.

Petition campaign to link ODA to Indonesia's withdrawal from East Timor. Press conference planned for around Nov. 12 this year.

Annual "Speaking Tour Campaign" from mid-Nov. to early December. Donaciano Gomes and Abilio Sereno from Portugal and Agio Pereira (with guitar) from Australia gave talks and concerts.

Response to Santa Cruz massacre: Issued statement and called for protests to Indonesian Embassy. Demonstration at Indonesian Embassy. Press conference in Tokyo with Fr. Stefani Renato and Donaciano Gomes. Visited Foreign Ministry with Jim Dunn (Nov.) and Diet member Okazaki (Dec.). Hunger strike in Dec., leafletting at For. Ministry. Assisted Diet Forum in gaining Dietmembers signatures on petition to PM. When trials were announced, organized a campaign to send postcards to Indonesia. Organized, in cooperation with Amnesty, a speaking tour in February with massacre witness Bob Muntz.

Participated in int'l solidarity meeting in Geneva in Feb., lobbied Japanese UNHRC delegates. Held press conferences for four participants from Japan in Lusitania Express Peace Mission. Called boycott of Nippon Oil service stations/issued boycott stickers protesting exploitation of Timor Gap oil. Sent letter to Consultative Group on Indonesia in July. Submitted petition to UN Decolonization Committee in August.

In addition to coalition activities, individual groups carried out their own projects, such as the Sendai groups's project to support a "school" in the Darwin East Timor community, Shimonoseki group's photo exhibition, Oita group's fund-raising concert, Kure group's book publication, Tokyo group's lobbying in local assemblies (since the massacre two local assemblies have adopted resolutions on East Timor) and monthly embassy demonstrations, Okayama group's membership drive among young people (spinoff from a member's participation in Peace Mission), speaking, article-writing, etc.

General Comment: Slow but steady growth of awareness at the grass-roots level (energized, in many cases, by visits to the territory by Japanese tourists) has not been matched by a "breakthrough" on the national media level. Government still immovable.